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# USDA'S REPORT TO CONSUMERS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE · OFFICE OF INFORMATION · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

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CELEBRATE NATIONAL LAWN AND GARDEN WEEK - MARCH 20-26

## ORNAMENTAL TREES

Need Landscaping Variety? Why not plant a flowering tree during National Lawn and Garden Week, March 20 to 26? Depending upon your area, dogwood, magnolia, or crabapple may be good choices. Magnolias need a fairly mild climate, where the temperature does not fall below 10 degrees. Dogwoods can stand a little more cold--they'll do well where temperature may drop to 15 degrees below zero. Crabapples won't do well in mild climates. They need about 50 cumulative days of winter temperatures below 45 degrees to break their dormancy. You can learn more about these three ornamentals from U. S. Department of Agriculture bulletins: Growing the Flowering Dogwood (HG-88), Growing Magnolias (HG-132), and Growing Flowering Crabapples (HG-135). They are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 20402. Each costs 5 cents.

## LAWN MAINTENANCE

Time To Grow Grass. Time to think "green" again, for a beautiful green lawn, that is. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has a number of bulletins available to help you grow the lawn you've been dreaming about. Three of these bulletins are "Better Lawns" (HG-51), "Selecting Fertilizers for Lawns and Gardens" (HG-89), and "Lawn Weed Control with Herbicides" (HG-123). All three are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 20402. Price per copy for HG-51 is 25 cents and HG-123 is 20 cents. HG-89 is 5 cents.

## LAWN CARE

The Troubled Turf. Did last year's lawn have more weeds than grass? Or maybe pests gave your lawn a "bugged-out" look? It's time to start thinking about getting your turf in shape for summer. The U. S. Department of Agriculture may have the answers to your lawn problems with two bulletins on weed and insect control. Helpful information is available in both "Lawn Insects: How To Control Them" (HG-53) and "Lawn Diseases: How To Control Them" (HG-61). Both are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington DC, 20402. Price per copy for HG-53 is 15 cents and HG-61 is 20 cents.

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## PLANNING YOUR MENU 1969

The Food Situation. Vegetables--both canned and frozen--are in larger supply this season than last, according to reports by U.S. Department of Agriculture economists at the 46th Annual National Outlook Conference held in Washington, DC, last month. Supplies of canned vegetables are record large this season...about 15 percent larger than a year earlier.

We Like Beef. Beef production has more than doubled in less than two decades--and the outlook is for even more beef and pork to be on our menus. Of the 183 pounds of red meat consumed per person in 1968 (a new record)--beef accounted for 110 pounds of it. Consumers used less veal and lamb.

## FRUIT FORECAST

Whether Or Not--Or in Spite of the Weather. We shall have fruit, according to reports of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in forecasting supplies of fruit at their 46th annual Outlook Conference. This season's citrus crop has been affected by various weather problems, however...total citrus production is expected to be 30 percent bigger than a year ago. Lemon output may be down. But U. S. orange production is expected to be 38 percent above last season. Florida's orange crop is up a fifth; and California's crop is likely to double last year's small crop. As for Florida's yield of juice per box of oranges it will be 20 percent below last season--due to frost damage. Grapefruit production is expected to be up a third from last season and will be the largest crop in 21 years. Prices for most citrus fruits are moderate, and are currently below year-ago levels.

No Apple for the Teacher. U. S. apple production fell for the fourth straight year in 1968. And current storage supplies are below average. U.S. canned peach pack was up more than a third from 1967. Fruit cocktail output was up a fourth to a new record the 1968 canned pear and tart cherry packs were also up sharply. U.S. production of strawberries (the leading frozen fruit) for processing was six percent below the preceding year. U. S. dried fruit supplies in 1968/69 will be substantially above last season. A rise in raisin output helped to cause the increase.

## FOOD FACTS...From USDA Outlook Conference

### For Consumer's Interest.

- \* USDA figures pork production in late winter is expected to be seasonally large--around four percent above a year earlier. Which means--more pork available for your dinner menus if you choose.
- \* Did you know that in the United States, the use of foods fats and oils per person is about 50 pounds annually? Prices for these edible fats at retail should remain steady at levels slightly above last fall, but wholesale prices may average lower because of large supplies. In 1969 the United States will probably continue to account for at least one-fourth of the world's production of oilseeds, fats and oils, and around one-third of the world exports of these commodities.



## FOOD PRICES EDGE UPWARDS

But Rate of Increase Is Slowing. Retail food prices in 1969 are expected to average two percent to two and a half percent above those in 1968 according to U. S. Department of Agriculture economists. This means only a small increase from price levels at the start of '69 because December prices averaged four percent above a year earlier. Food prices in grocery stores likely will average one percent to two percent above 1968 and restaurant food prices around five percent above the previous year. One-fifth of our food expenditures are for food we buy and eat away from home.

## PLENTIFUL FOODS FOR MARCH

Ever Tried Quick Prune Bread? If not, now's the time. Prunes are at the top of the Plentifuls list from the U. S. Department of Agriculture for March. Also on the list are potatoes, canned tomatoes and tomato products, canned and frozen sweet corn, fresh grapefruit, canned grapefruit juice, rice, peanuts and peanut products, pork and turkey.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Exterior Painting, H&G Bulletin No. 155

Roll It Faster--Brush It Deeper. The paint roller may be faster but a brush may give better penetration on wood surfaces according to the new publication on exterior painting published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Take time to do a good job when you paint; it warns. First, use good quality paint. It will give longer and better protection. Second, prepare the surface properly for painting. Even the best paint won't last on a poorly prepared surface. Other valuable information from the booklet includes advice on surface preparation, when to paint, number of coats to use and the prevention and care of painting problems. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.--Price 10 cents.

### Growing Camellias, HG-86 and Growing Azaleas and Rhododendrons HG-71

Plant Those Shrubs Now. It's time to get out the spade and start planting. Why not plant some flowering shrubs this year? Three popular ones are azaleas rhododendrons, and camellias. All three grow best in fairly mild climates, and need well-drained, acid soil, high in organic matter. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has two bulletins that will give you more information about planting and caring for these flowering shrubs. Growing Camellias (HG-86) and Growing Azaleas and Rhododendrons (HG-71) are for sale from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. HG-86 costs 10 cents, and HG-71 5 cents. Include your zip code when ordering.

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## THINK OCTOBER

Plan Your Fall Garden Now. Why not use National Lawn and Garden Week, March 20 to 26, to plan for your colorful fall gardens? Chrysanthemums and dahlias can give your garden color after summer blooms are gone. Both come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. You can plant both this spring. Chrysanthemums and dahlias thrive throughout the U.S. and grow with a minimum of care. They'll provide colorful blooms from July until they are killed by autumn frosts. For more information, send for Growing Chrysanthemums (HG-65) and Growing Dahlias (HG-131). These U.S. Department of Agriculture bulletins will give you advice on planting and care. There are also sections on pest control. Both are for sale from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Price per copy for each is 5 cents.

## GARDENING TIPS

Do Your Plants Have A Tired Yellow Look. It could be iron deficiency. When chlorophyl, the green coloring material, doesn't develop normally, leaves turn yellow. And iron deficiency, or chlorosis, keeps chlorophyl from developing normally. What to do if you suspect it? Send for Iron Deficiency in Plants: How To Control It In Yards And Gardens (HG-102). This U.S. Department of Agriculture bulletin gives further details on how to recognize iron chlorosis. It also tells you how to prevent and treat this condition. HG-102 is for sale at 15 cents per copy, from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

## THE INSIDE STORY

Live In An Apartment? You've probably been jealous of your friends' colorful outdoor flower gardens. Don't turn green with envy. Turn that green into a green thumb for National Lawn and Garden Week, March 20 to 26. Plant your own flower garden--in an indoor planter. Some plants will thrive where there is little or no daylight if they get between 12 and 16 hours of light from high-intensity fluorescent lamps. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has developed plans for six different types of indoor planters. Send for "Indoor Gardens for Decorative Plants," HG-133. This bulletin is for sale from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. It costs 10 cents a copy.

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SERVICE is a monthly newsletter of consumer interest. It is designed for those who report to the individual consumer rather than for mass distribution. For information about items in this issue, write: Shirley E. Wagener, Editor of SERVICE, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Information, Washington, D.C. 20250. Please include your zipcode.